Overheard

"When you have to go, you have to go."
MIKHAIL GORBACHEV, *moments before going on camera to announce his resignation*

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"Your empire is doing well now? It's not being dismantled?"
GORBACHEV, *to CNN president Tom Johnson*

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"Uh-huh."
Comatose patient BARBARA BRASHERS, *of Belton, Mo., after her husband—simply talking out loud—asked her if he should continue rubbing her back. She had been in a coma since 1989.*

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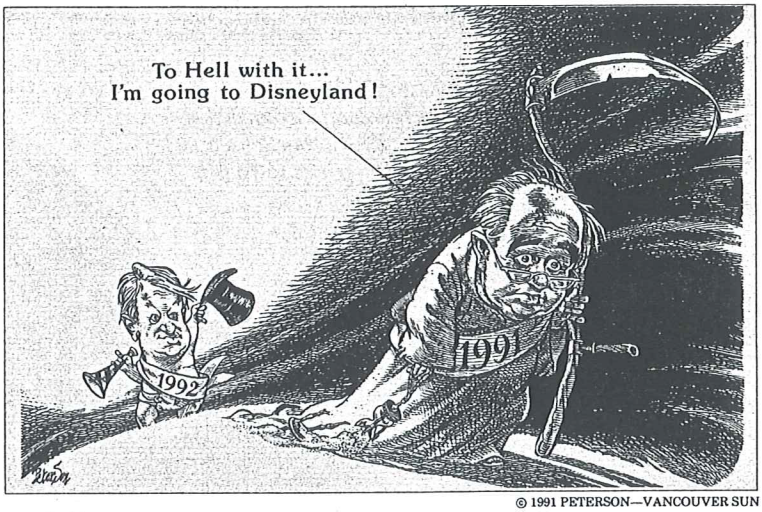
'The economy needs a lift . . . I'm running down to J.C. Penney again'



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"It's not good for business if you care for a second whether blood is bubbling from a guy's mouth."
Hard-hitting Minnesota Vikings star JOEY BROWNER, *on playing defense in the NFL*

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"Things were run on a need-to-know principle: if you needed to know, you weren't told."
PETER JAY, *formerly a top executive in the Robert Maxwell empire, on his late boss's management practices*

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"What he does on his own time is up to him."
Bexar County (Texas) Sheriff HARLON COPELAND, *on a deputy charged with exposing himself to a child while off-duty*

"Things got so bad that I had to play my student manager for a while. They got really bad when she started to complain to the press that she wasn't getting enough playing time."
University of Minnesota women's basketball coach LINDA HILL-MCDONALD, *on her team's woeful 6-22 record last season*

• • •

"He saw Oswald come out with a smirk on his face and that ticked him off."
EARL RUBY, *on why his brother Jack Ruby shot Lee Harvey Oswald*

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Quotations are compiled from NEWSWEEK correspondents as well as other press, TV and wire-service reports.